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ATCHAM, R.D.
BISHOP'S CASTLE, M B.
CHURCH STRETTON, U.D.
CLUN, R.D.
WENLOCK, M.B.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1942.

William Woolley Ltd., Printers, Bilston, Staffs.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

JAMES L. GREGORY, M.B., CH.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & HY.

Sanitary Inspectors :

ATCHAM R.D.	W. H. PURSLOW,	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.
*Bishop's Castle. M.B.	H. LONGDEN,	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.
*Church Stretton. U.D.	E. J. MARSH,	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.
*Clun. R.D.	H. A. ELLIOTT,	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.
Wenlock. M.B.	C. J. THOMAS,	Cert. Roy. San. Inst.

Bacteriologist :

DR. A. J. RHODES
Pathological Laboratories,
Royal Salop Infirmary,
Shrewsbury.

Tuberculosis Officers :

DR. T. R. ELLIOTT AND DR. A. C. WATKIN,
Tuberculosis Dispensary,
Shrewsbury.

* In these districts the appointment is a part-time one, the Inspector also holding the post of Surveyor.

South West Salop United Districts.

To the Chairman and Members of the Joint Committee.

1st. July, 1943.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health of the districts for the year ending 31st. December, 1942. The report is a combined one but as in the previous report the vital statistics for each area are shown separately.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Birth-rate is 18.0 per 1,000 of the population and the Death-rate 11.0 per 1,000. These compare favourably with the corresponding figures for the whole country. (15.8 and 11.6)

Infantile Mortality is also lower than the general rate, as is also the Maternal Mortality.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No serious out-break of any infectious disease took place. Diphtheria cases dropped from 61 in 1941 to 11 in 1942, and this reduction in diphtheria cases has been maintained in the first six months of 1943, only four cases having been so far notified. The percentage of all children under the age of fifteen years who have been protected against diphtheria was 64% at the end of the year and is now (mid 1943) 73%.

HOUSING.

Building is still more or less at a stand-still but a scheme for building cottages for agricultural workers has been adopted and it is expected that twenty-eight of these will soon be built in the districts. (Atcham R.D. 16, Clun 8, and Wenlock M.B. 4.) Councils have also been asked to formulate a programme for building houses in the first post-war year in order that there may be the minimum amount of delay in getting houses started.

TUBERCULOSIS.

A total of fifty-six new cases were notified and there were twenty-four deaths. Thirty-six of the former and nineteen of the latter were of the pulmonary type. The recommendations of the Committee on " Tuberculosis in War-time " have been adopted and are being put into operation. These include increased and improved facilities for earlier diagnosis and increased accommodation for sanatorium treatment, combined with financial assistance to families in which the wage earner is undergoing treatment at a sanatorium.

MILK SUPPLIES.

A National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme has been started the objects of which are to prevent the loss of milk from souring and to improve its keeping qualities. The scheme is to be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and includes periodic sampling of all milk and advisory visits to producers' premises where this is indicated to be required. Compulsory pasteurization of all milk has not yet been found to be possible but will no doubt come in time. There can be no doubt that the standard of cleanliness in much of the milk supplied to consumers leaves much to be desired. Among the diseases which can be spread by milk are the following :—Tuberculosis, Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Undulant Fever, Epidemic Sore Throat, etc.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The large number of supplies makes control of them very difficult but as far as possible quarterly analysis have been made of the public supplies and where samples have proved to be unsatisfactory the matter has been reported to the Council concerned. Shortages were experienced in several areas in the autumn of the year but were over-come by restricting the hours of supply.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES L. GREGORY.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The following are certain general statistics relating to the five districts comprising South West Salop.

Area.

Actham. R.D.	Area in acres	134,465
	Number of inhabited houses — at 31.12.42.	5,285
	Rateable Value	£80,127
	Product of 1d. rate	£338
Bishop's Castle. M.B.	Area in acres	1,867
	Number of inhabited houses — at 31.12.42.	396
	Rateable Value	£5,521
	Product of 1d. rate	£21-10-0
Church Stretton. U.D.	Area in acres	6,085
	Number of inhabited houses — at 31.12.42.	684
	Rateable Value	£19,819
	Product of 1d. rate	£80-4-8
Clun. R.D.	Area in acres	132,512
	Number of inhabited houses — at 31.12.42.	2,787
	Rateable Value	£24,695
	Product of 1d. rate	£108-7-3
Wenlock. M.B.	Area in acres	22,657
	Number of inhabited houses — at 31.12.42.	(approx) 5,000
	Rateable Value	£45,763
	Product of 1d. rate	£174-18-6

VITAL STATISTICS.

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	367	196	171
Illegitimate	22	12	10

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 18.4

Still Births	9	4	5

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births = 22.5

Deaths	239	134	105

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population = 11.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
From Puerperal Sepsis	1	2.5
From other puerperal causes	–	–
Total	1	2.5

Deaths of Infants under one year.

	Number of deaths.	Rate.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	15	41
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	2	91
All Infants per 1,000 total births	17	43

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	39
,, ,, MEASLES (all ages)	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—

VITAL STATISTICS.

BISHOP'S CASTLE. M.B.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	13	7	6
Illegitimate	1	–	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 10.6.

	Total	M.	F.
Still Births		Nil	
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births =		**Nil**	
Deaths	16	2	14

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population = 12.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
Puerperal Sepsis	nil	—
From other puerperal causes	nil	—
Total	–	–

Deaths of Infants under one year :

	Number of deaths.	Rate.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	—	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	1	1,000
All Infants per 1,000 total births	1	71

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	2
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—

VITAL STATISTICS.

CHURCH STRETTON. U.D.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	33	11	22
Illegitimate	1	–	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 12.8

	Total.	M.	F.
Still Births	1	—	1

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births = 28

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	28	11	17

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population = 10.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
From Puerperal Sepsis	nil	—
From other puerperal causes	nil	—
Total	—	—

Deaths of Infants under one year.

	Number of deaths.	Rate.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	1	30
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—
All Infants per 1,000 total births	1	29

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	4
,, ,, MEASLES (all ages)	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—

VITAL STATISTICS.

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	165	82	83
Illegitimate	12	3	9

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 17.4

	Total	M.	F.
Still Births	8	4	4

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births = 43.

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	115	64	51

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population = 11.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
From puerperal sepsis	nil	—
From other puerperal causes	nil	—
Total	—	—

Deaths of Infants under one year.

	Number of deaths	Rate
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	2	12
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil	—
All Infants per 1,000 total births	2	11

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	20
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—

VITAL STATISTICS.

WENLOCK. M.B.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	275	140	135
Illegitimate	9	4	5

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 19.8

	Total	M.	F.
Still Births	11	5	6

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births = 37

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	193	99	94

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population = 13.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
From puerperal sepsis	nil	—
From other puerperal causes	nil	—
Total	—	—

Deaths of Infants under one year.

	Number of deaths	Rate
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	13	47
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—
All Infants per 1,000 total births	13	45

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	26
,, ,, MEASLES (all ages)	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

SECTION A,

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The total number of live births registered in the combined districts was 898 and this represents a birth-rate of 18.0 per 1,000 of the population. (England & Wales = 15.8)

The highest rate was in Wenlock M.B. (19.8) and the lowest in Bishop's Castle (10.6).

The number of births is the highest in the area for the last four years and the birth-rate is also the highest.

Still Births.

These numbered 29 and the rate per 1,000 of the civilian population = .58. (England & Wales = .54).

Deaths.

The total deaths were 591, giving a death-rate of 11.0 per 1,000 of the population. (England & Wales = 11.6).

The highest death-rate was in Wenlock M.B. (13.4) and the lowest in Church Stretton U.D. (10.5).

Natural Increase of Population.

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 307.

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age was 34. This is ten less than in the previous year and gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 38 per 1,000 live births. (England & Wales = 49).

An analysis of these deaths shows that 18 took place under the age of one week and three more under the age of 4 weeks making a total of 21 out of the 34 deaths under the age of four weeks. The causes of these deaths were Prematurity (14), Congenital Defects (7), and among the children over 4 weeks—Broncho-pneumonia (6) was the chief cause of death. Gastro-enteritis was the cause of death in only one case.

Maternal Mortality.

Only one death was recorded in the combined districts due to causes associated with child-birth, giving a rate of 1.08 per 1,000 total (live and still) births. The comparable figure for England and Wales was 2.47 per 1,000 births. The one death was registered in the Atcham R.D.

Mortality from Cancer.

A total of 91 deaths were recorded this being 23 less than in 1941. The deaths since 1939 have been as follows :—86, 77, 114, & 91.

The death-rate per million living is given below and for comparison the rates for previous years and for the whole country are also included.

	1939	1940	1941	1942
South West Salop	1,855	1,609	2,218	1,831
England & Wales	1,620	1,662	1,670	1,834

Mortality from Tuberculosis.

The total number of deaths from tuberculosis was 24 (19 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary). The death rates for the last few years and also those for England & Wales are given below.

Year.	South West Salop.					England & Wales		
	No. of deaths		Death Rate per million living			Death Rate per million living		
	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	Total	P.	N.P.	Total
1939	13	3	280	64	344	520	98	618
1940	14	4	292	83	375	571	108	679
1941	14	7	273	136	409	570	121	691
1942	19	5	382	100	482	542	115	657

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Staff.

There have been no changes during the year and the staff remains the same as in the previous year.

Laboratory Facilities.

Full use has again been made of the facilities offered by the Donaldson-Hudson Laboratories at the Royal Salop Infirmary and this opportunity is taken of again acknowledging the great help obtained from Dr. A. J. Rhodes and his Assistants. The Government Emergency Laboratory at Hereford supply the prophylactic (A.P.T.) which is used in the campaign against diphtheria.

Ambulance Facilities.

These remain the same as last year. No delay has been experienced in getting patients to hospital.

Nursing in the Home.

Details of this work will be found in the report of the Shropshire Nursing Federation for 1942.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The combined School Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres at Iron-bridge, Church Stretton and Bishop's Castle have been open throughout the year and the attendances have been very satisfactory.

In the Atcham R.D. there is no such Clinic or Welfare Centre and there would appear to be a need for one or more in such centres as Pontesbury, Dorrington etc. Even although such a centre was only held once a fortnight or once a month it would be of value as a centre for the mothers to bring their children to for advice as to their health. When times become more normal more of these Centres will no doubt be opened by the authority concerned in the administration of School Medical and Infant Welfare Work.

Hospitals.

No change has taken place since last year's report. The Nuffield Trust are investigating the whole question of Hospitals in Rural Areas and reporting to the Ministry of Health.

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLIES.

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

The West Atcham and Pimhill supplies were described in last year's report. During 1942 the supplies have been well maintained but no extensions are being carried out during the meantime. As was mentioned in last year's report some trouble has been experienced at certain points on the West Atcham scheme where there are ' dead ends.' Regular flushing at these points has been carried out and this has improved matters.

The water at Upton Magna village was found to be polluted and the matter was referred to the agent of the estate concerned. After some improvements had been carried out a better sample was obtained, but this supply—which is a private one—will have to be improved later on when times are more normal. In dry weather the amount of water is deficient.

Samples of Water taken at Horsebridge Well have proved unsatisfactory and an extension of the West Atcham Supply to this district would seem to be the best course to follow when this is possible.

Elsewhere in the district supplies are chiefly either from wells or springs or from estate supplies. These are sampled when any complaint is made but owing to their number it is not possible to have them all sampled as a routine.

Among places where the supply is not satisfactory either in quality or amount may be mentioned BUILDWAS and PULVERBATCH and both these places will require a new scheme later on.

BISHOP'S CASTLE.

The Surveyor reports that although the year was a very dry one it was not necessary to restrict the supply on any day during the year. He points out however that augmentation of the supply will be necessary when times are more normal. One of the filter beds was cleaned out and re-filled with new sand etc. during the year. The beds deal with approximately 30,000 gallons a day which is the average daily consumption of water in the town.

Samples are taken quarterly for bacteriological examination and the following is the report on a sample taken on the 11th. November, 1942 :—

Presumptive B. coli	nil per 100 ml.
Bacter. count at 37 C.	100 per ml.
Bacter. count at 22 C.	2 per ml.

This is a very satisfactory sample.

(signed) A. J. RHODES,
Bacteriologist.

Details of the water supply, filter beds etc. were given in last year's report. The number of houses connected to the mains is about 378 and in addition there are 17 farms connected, five of which are outside the Borough.

The consumption of water per head of the population averages 26 gallons per 24 hours.

CHURCH STRETTON.

The Surveyor reports that there has been no shortage of water during the year under review. Application to the Ministry of Health for sanction to the raising of a loan to cover the cost of renewing 800 yards of old mains situated in Madeira Walk and between Longhills Road and Burway was made at the latter end of the year 1941.

Mr. Marsh's report as to the necessity for the proposed work was based on the fact that, on account of the comparatively small diameter and incrusted conditions of the old mains, they were not adequate for dealing with out-breaks of fire. It could not, however, be said that they were inadequate to supply ordinary domestic needs. Under these circumstances the Ministry were not prepared to sanction the raising of the necessary loan.

Regular inspections of consumers' pipes and fittings has been maintained. During the year 2.974 inspections were made and resulted in the location and elimination of waste in 101 cases. The sterilizing plant at New Pool Hollow, installed in February, 1941, continues to operate satisfactorily. Weekly tests are made for the determination of residual chlorine.

Chlorination of the All Stretton supply is also carried out and examination of samples prove this to be very necessary as the water before chlorination could not be passed as suitable for drinking purposes. On some visits of inspection to the chlorination plant it has been found not to be functioning and this means that the users are drinking unchlorinated water. Samples have also been found to contain no residual chlorine. In view of these facts the Council had a letter sent to the Water Company concerned pointing out the importance of adequate chlorination. Irregular or insufficient chlorination is worse than useless, as it gives a false sense of security.

Bacteriological Analysis.

Samples have been taken for analysis each quarter from both supplies, in each case one sample being taken before chlorination and one after. Results of the most recent analyses have been as follows :—

CHURCH STRETTON SUPPLY.

Presump. B. coli	nil per 100 ml.
Bacter. count at 37 C.	3 per ml.
Bacter. count at 22 C.	3 per ml.

ALL STRETTON SUPPLY.

Presump. B. coli	nil per 100 ml.
Bacter. count at 37 C.	4 per ml.
Bacter. count at 22 C.	16 per ml.

NOTE. Both these samples were taken after chlorination.

It will be seen, therefore, that, provided chlorination is carried out efficiently, both supplies can be passed as safe for domestic use. An additional safeguard would be to filter both waters before chlorination and this is a matter which might well be considered in any post-war plans for the improvement of the supplies. It is impossible to be too careful in safeguarding a water supply as it is one of the first essentials in maintaining the health of a community.

CLUN R.D.

The year 1942 was one in which the rain-fall fell much below the average and complaints were received during the summer and autumn months of shortages at Clun, Chirbury, Marton and a few other places.

Bacteriological examinations of samples from the following supplies were made, with the results stated :—

Satisfactory.

- Clun.
- Clunton.
- Clunbury.
- Clungunford.
- Kempton.
- Newcastle.
- Bucknell.
- Chirbury.
- Brocton & Worthen.
- Bromlow.
- Lydbury North.
- Marton.

Unsatisfactory.

- Hopesay. (School supply)
- Aston-on-Clun. (Well)
- Bromlow. (School supply)
- Walkmill Public Well.

Hopesay.

The supply to the school comes from a private supply, the water being pumped by a ram from a small brook to a collecting tank after which it is passed through a filter bed. The brook is known to be polluted and a sample from the brook taken on 20th. January, 1943, showed 160 presumptive coli per 100 ml. The attention of the County Health Authority was drawn to this matter and at present water at the school is being boiled, but steps should be taken as soon as is possible to procure a better supply or to improve the present one.

Aston-on-Clun.

The well is unprotected and reports show a variable degree of pollution. A sample taken in January, 1943, was satisfactory but a further sample in April, 1943, was very unsatisfactory indeed. This well ought to be protected to prevent it being contaminated from the surface.

Bromlow School Supply.

The well in the school yard is polluted and is not used at present for drinking purposes. Water is carried from a well at a neighbouring house.

Walkmill Public Well.

This well is situated in a field at the side of the Bishop's Castle-Ratlinghope Road. It is unprotected and the gate of the fence round the well is off its hinges so that cattle can gain entrance to the enclosure and pollute the well.

The matter was reported to the Council in November, 1942, but, apparently owing to the difficulty of getting labour, nothing has so far been done. This well should be covered in and a pump fixed above it and the gates repaired.

A sample taken in November, 1942, showed the water to be badly polluted with animal matter.

Clun.

In September, considerable shortage was experienced in Clun. A proposal to use chlorinated river water was made but this was not found to be necessary as the flow from the springs increased.

The Council approached the Ministry of Health with regard to getting the necessary authority for securing an additional supply to augment the present one, but this was not granted as the Ministry were of the opinion that the shortage could be met by rationing of the supply if any future shortage was threatened. The matter has therefore, of necessity, been postponed until times are more favourable for the carrying out of the necessary work.

The quality of the water from the present supply, as shown by the results of bacteriological examination, is excellent.

Marton.

This supply is from a stream and it is passed through a gravel filter. A shortage was experienced in the summer and although this may have been partly due to the dry season and to increased consumption, it was thought that there may have been some leakage from the main and this is being investigated.

With regard to purity, this water varies in quality as there is from time to time a certain amount of animal pollution present in samples, but not to a very serious extent.

Chirbury.

This village supply is in private ownership and a shortage was experienced in the summer months. As a result of meetings with the representatives of the owner and the Regional Engineer of the Ministry the former have agreed to enlarge the size of the collecting tank which should lead to an improvement in the amount of water available, as much of the shortage was due to the fact that all the available water could not be pumped to the mains but was, to a great extent, running to waste.

The quality of this water is very satisfactory.

Newcastle-on-Clun.

Although, normally, samples of this supply have proved satisfactory, a sample taken on the 30th. March, 1943, showed marked pollution. Investigation proved that polluting matter was gaining entrance to the collecting tanks through ventilating gratings in the roof of the tanks. The Council agreed to have the area of the field in which the tanks are placed and also the collecting ground (as far as is possible) fenced off so that cattle cannot gain entrance, and also to have the coverings of the tanks made secure against any possible pollution.

Complaints of iron being present in the water were also investigated. This matter was previously investigated in 1936, when it was found that 0.03 parts of iron per 100,000 were present in the water at the reservoir, but that at the School tap 0.6 parts per 100,000 were present.

On this occasion 0.032 parts per 100,000 was the highest figure obtained at any point. It is probable that the increase of iron which appears to be met with from time to time is due to the action of the water on the service pipes especially if there is any ‘dead end’ on the system.

WENLOCK.

Although the year was one with a low rain fall, the Inspector reports that no complaints regarding shortage of water were received during the year.

The main supplies from the Harrington and Beckbury bore-holes were well maintained and the water from these sources is chlorinated before delivery into the mains. Bacteriological examinations are made quarterly and proved satisfactory.

At Much Wenlock the supplies from the springs at Station Road and Abbey Springs were satisfactory although the yield of these springs is only just adequate for the needs of the town. The results of examinations of samples was satisfactory but no filtration or chlorination of the water takes place.

The supply at Little Wenlock was also satisfactory and adequate during the year. At Homer the water from the two wells is satisfactory for domestic use.

An analysis of a water sample from the spout at Callaughton taken on 19th. May, 1943, proved unsatisfactory and the matter is being gone into with a view to improving the quality of the water. This water comes from a spring and flows to a tank from which it is pumped by a ram to the spout. An estimate of the yield of water showed this to be approximately 14,000 gallons per 24 hours. Most of this runs to waste as the spout is running continuously and the overflow passes into a small stream by the road-side.

SEWERS AND DRAINAGE, REFUSE DISPOSAL ETC.

ATCHAM. R.D.

There have been no extensions to sewers during the year. The only sewage disposal works of any size is at Pontesbury. This has undergone some repairs but after the war several of the larger villages will have to be supplied with improved methods of disposal of sewage. It is usually considered that where a piped water supply is laid on to a number of houses then it is necessary to have a sewage disposal scheme sooner or later. Therefore with an extension of piped supplies there will have to be a similar extension of efficient disposal schemes. Many country houses and cottages have no proper scheme of disposal and sooner or later the effluents from tanks etc. cause a nuisance to arise in the ditch into which they discharge.

Refuse disposal is by tipping at various sites. A collection is made fortnightly as before.

Salvage drives have been held from time to time and have proved very successful, a large quantity of salvage having been obtained in this way.

BISHOP'S CASTLE.

The Surveyor (Mr. H. Longden) reports that there were no extensions to the sewers during the year. The sewage disposal works functioned efficiently during the year.

From 1st. April, collection was by hired lorry with a driver and one man and two of the Council's workmen as collectors. Refuse is disposed of by tipping near the N.W. boundary of the Borough.

CHURCH STRETTON.

Mr. E. J. Marsh, Surveyor, reports that no extensions took place to sewers. The drainage system of one house was completely re-laid and connection of the same made to the public sewer.

Refuse disposal continues as formerly by tipping on a site adjacent to the sewage disposal works. The system of weekly collections from all houses has been modified in that now weekly collections are made from houses with small gardens or none at all, while houses with larger gardens, in which some of the refuse can be conveniently buried, receive a visit every second week from the collectors.

Salvage has been collected and sold as follows :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
Paper	33	14	0
Rags		14	2
Bones	2	12	0
Iron, including cans	26	5	0
Total	63	5	2

CLUN. R.D.

No new sewers or drains were completed during the year. Several of the villages are of such a size as to require the provision of small sewage disposal schemes and these will have to be considered after the end of the present emergency.

The provision of a piped water supply usually sooner or later results in a demand arising for a sewage disposal scheme.

No regular collection of refuse has taken place in the district as a whole but the Council are at present (1943) considering the purchase of a motor vehicle so that regular collections may be commenced.

WENLOCK M.B.

Lengths of 75 yards 6″ sewer and 25 yards 9″ sewer were laid in the Broseley Ward.

Thirty-four private drains were repaired or re-constructed and in fifteen cases improvements were made in water closet accommodation.

New Water-closets.

In seven factories extensive improvements were made as regards water closet accommodation. In five of these septic tanks were built as no sewer was available and a total of thirty-two new Water closets were provided in all.

No alteration has taken place in the system of collection and disposal of refuse during the year.

New water-closets in place of privies have been provided at Madeley C. of E. Infants School and the drainage connected with the main sewer.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Schemes for the building of new houses and for the repair of others which require work to be done to make them habitable, are at present under consideration and may be mentioned under the following headings :—

Housing of Agricultural Workers.

Circular 2766 (Ministry of Health) deals with this matter and describes the steps to be taken by local authorities as regards the building of the houses allocated to their respective districts. The number of houses to be built in South West Salop areas is as follows :—

Atcham Rural District	16
Clun Rural District	8
Wenlock Municipal Borough	4

Sites have been provisionally selected in consultation with the War Agricultural Executive Committee of Shropshire, and it is hoped that building will soon commence. Among the chief difficulties in selecting sites have been those of obtaining suitable water supplies and drainage facilities.

Proximity of the proposed cottages to schools has been another matter which has had to receive consideration.

Housing of Working Classes.

(POST WAR PROGRAMME).

Circular 2778 of the 4th. March, 1943, calls upon all local authorities to formulate a programme which would comprise one year's building at the conclusion of the war.

Long term housing programmes are not yet possible to plan of course, as they will depend on a number of factors not yet determined, such as location of industry etc. etc.

At the time of writing the following programmes have been approved by the authorities mentioned :—

District.	Number of houses.
Atcham Rural District	100
Bishop's Castle M.B.	12-18
Church Stretton. U.D.	12
Clun. R.D.	52
Wenlock. M.B.	—

It is a matter of great difficulty to estimate the needs of any district as regards future housing requirements but among other families who will have to be considered may be mentioned the following :—

a. **Ex-service men.** Large numbers of these will require houses as many have got married since the war began and have no home of their own as yet.

b. **Agricultural workers.** Modern houses will have to be built in country districts if men are to be encouraged to work on the land.

c. **Over-crowded families.** In the survey undertaken in 1936, a total of 439 houses or 4.8% of the houses inspected were found to be overcrowded in the S.W. Salop Areas. Much of that overcrowding has been abated but new cases have arisen and houses will have to be built to relieve these.

d. **Unfit houses.** Families living in such houses will have to be re-housed and there can be little doubt that the numbers of such houses will have increased during the war years owing to the scarcity of materials and labour to repair them.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat.

The inspection of meat is now centralized at Shrewsbury where there is an abattoir serving a large district. The Inspectors are from time to time asked to inspect and condemn various tinned goods which have become unfit for human consumption.

Milk.

The following table shows the number of producers in each area and the visits paid by the Inspectors and defects found etc. etc.

AREA.	Producers on Register.	Registered Dairies.	Registered Milk-shops.	Inspections made.	Defects found.	Prelim. notices served.	Prelim. notices complied with.	T.T. Certified sellers.	T.T. sellers.	Pasteurized sellers.	Accredited sellers.
Atcham R.D.	753	754	Nil	450	65	39	32	Nil	16	—	73
Bishop's Castle. M.B.	16	—	—	28	3	3	3	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton U.D.	13	13	1	22	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
Clun. R.D.	145	139	—	10	12	8	5	—	3	—	7
Wenlock. M.B.	85	77	—	68	15	8	7	1	2	1	18
Totals	1012	783	1	584	95	58	47	1	23	1	101

Sampling of Milk.

Under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme all milk is to be sampled twice a month at the larger depots and dairies. If samples from certain producers fail in the tests applied, advisory visits will be arranged so that improved methods of production can be recommended. This will be carried out under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who are responsible for the scheme. The producer-retailers will have to be dealt with in some different way as they may not send any milk to a dairy or depot. It is with regard to this class of producer that the local health officials can help in the scheme by taking samples and forwarding them for analysis. This has been done in some of the districts and the names of producers whose milk fails to pass the test for cleanliness have been forwarded to the War Agricultural Executive Committee, who then have arranged for advisory visits to be paid to the premises of the producers concerned.

This appears to be a sound scheme and one which it is to be hoped will lead to an improvement in the cleanliness of the milk sold to the public. Generally speaking the essential points to be borne in mind if clean milk is to be produced are as follows:—

1. All utensils used must be clean and if possible they should be sterilized by steam or boiled in water.
2. The hands of those who are milking and handling the milk in any way must be clean. The cow's udders should also be washed clean of any dirt.
3. In order that the above two essentials shall be carried out thoroughly and constantly, a responsible person should be constantly present in the dairy while milking is going on.

A great amount of the dirty milk produced is found on enquiry to be the result of lack of attention to the simplest rules of cleanliness. Therefore supervision is of the utmost importance if good results are to be obtained.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases notified during the year ending 31st. December, 1942, together with the number of each disease sent to hospital and the deaths.

DISTRICT.	Scarlet Fever			Diphtheria			Measles			Whooping Cough			Pneumonia			Erysipelas			Puerperal Pyrexia			Cerebro-spinal Meningitis		
	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths	Cases	Hospital	Deaths
Atcham. R.D.	17	2	—	8	8	2	26	—	—	40	—	1	13	—	12	3	—	—	3	3	1	2	2	—
Bishop's Castle. M.B.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton. U.D.	3	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clun. R.D.	10	4	—	—	—	—	53	—	—	12	—	—	9	—	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Wenlock. M.B.	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	11	—	1	2	—	10	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	36	7	—	11	11	2	81	—	—	65	—	2	24	—	27	8	—	—	7	3	1	2	2	—
Incidence Rate per 1,000 of populat'n. S.W. SALOP	0.72			0.22			1.63			1.31			0.48			0.16			7.55*			0.04		
ENG. & WALES	2.19			1.05			7.46			1.73			1.07			0.30			12.61*			0.14		

* Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

NOTES ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

It will be seen from the table that there were no cases of Small-pox or Typhoid Fever in any of the districts during 1942. When it is remembered how common these diseases were at one time and what a toll of human life they took, it is encouraging to be able to record their complete absence, although even now-a-days great vigilence has to be employed if they are to be kept in abeyance.

The out-break of Small Pox at Glasgow and previous out-breaks of Typhoid Fever at Croydon and elsewhere, were warnings that both diseases could still break out in England and that we cannot possibly relax our efforts to safeguard the public health if we are to continue to enjoy the immunity which we usually do in this country.

The present generation is witnessing a great effort to stamp out yet another disease which has formerly exacted a toll of more than 3,000 children's lives each year in this country, or about twice as many deaths as are caused in road accidents in a year. This disease is DIPHTHERIA which has been known of since it was first described in the first century. A.D. Previous to the introduction of treatment with ANTI-TOXIN the number of deaths in England used to number 9,000 per annum but since then the mortality has been greatly reduced. Cases treated promptly with anti-toxin in sufficiently large doses usually recover but the chief difficulty has been with regard to the younger children who may not complain of throat symptoms until the disease is too far advanced for any treatment to be of avail.

It is for this reason that the prevention of the disease is so important and we are now able to offer protection to children aged nine months or over by means of two small inoculations in the arm with an interval of a month between them.

Already in SOUTH WEST SALOP more than 76% of the school children have been protected but the percentage of children under the age of five years is only 64%. It is essential that a much larger percentage of the 'under fives' should be protected and this can only be achieved by the intelligent co-operation of these young children's parents. The great majority of parents respond willingly to the offer to have their children protected if the reason for having it done is carefully explained to them by a doctor or nurse in whom they have confidence.

Particulars of the progress of immunization in the districts will be found later on in this section, as also the figures which show the decreased incidence of the disease in 1942.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 36 cases notified as compared with 50, 32 and 78 in the three previous years. All the cases were mild and there were no deaths. Details of the numbers of cases in each area and the numbers sent to hospital will be found in the table at the beginning of this section.

Diphtheria.

Eleven cases were notified and there were two deaths. The numbers in the three previous years were—11, 55, 61. The following details of the cases are of interest.

ATCHAM.

Five of the cases were in one family. A boy who had just commenced school (aged 5) and who was unprotected, was the first to develop diphtheria. His case proved fatal and of two other children in the family, both under five years and unprotected, both took the disease and one died. The father and mother also developed the disease and recovered.

In the school which the boy had only been attending for two weeks, over 90% of the other children had been protected and there were no other cases in the school.

The other three cases in Atcham R.D. were nurses at an Institution none of whom were protected. They all recovered.

The staff of this institution have since all been protected.

CHURCH STRETTON.

Of the two cases notified the first was a woman who probably contracted the disease while away on holiday. She had never been protected and was removed to hospital where she was dangerously ill but recovered. The other case was her infant daughter who was diagnosed early and made a good recovery in hospital.

WENLOCK M.B.

The only case reported was a girl who was the daughter of a dairy-man. A positive swab was obtained from her throat and she was removed to hospital although while there she did not exhibit any of the clinical signs of diphtheria and was discharged in a fortnight. This girl had been protected a year previously and to this she undoubtedly owed the fact that she was never seriously ill. Such cases should be considered as ‘ carriers ’ as they are not ill themselves but may be a source of infection to others as are Typhoid Carriers.

An infant child in the house who had recently been protected was not infected.

In this connection it may be explained that the protection given is against the toxin or poison which is the cause of the serious results of diphtheria. It is of course impossible by means of inoculation to prevent any person getting a germ in their throat. The fact that a protected person may still harbour the germ without having any symptoms of illness themselves but remaining a source of danger to other unprotected persons, is a very strong argument in favour of every child being protected. Otherwise a child might be in contact with another who, while appearing perfectly well, has the power of infecting others with the disease to which he is himself immune.

The notification rate for this disease was 0.22 per 1,000 of the population which compares favourably with a rate of 1.05 for England and Wales. The death-rate was 0.04 per 1,000. (England & Wales = 0.05).

IMMUNIZATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The following figures show the progress which has been made in the campaign to get children protected since the first return was required by the Ministry in September, 1941.

PERCENTAGES OF CHILD POPULATION IMMUNIZED.

Date of Return.	Aged under 5 years.	Aged 5-15 years.	Total 0-15 years.
30th. September, 1941	14%	37%	30%
31st. December, 1941	19%	43%	35%
30th. June, 1942	32%	61%	52%
31st. December, 1942	51%	70%	64%
30th. June, 1943	64%	76%	73%

It will be seen from the above figures that there has been a steady increase in the percentage of children protected during the last two years. The chief thing necessary now is to try and get **all** children protected as soon as is possible after their first birth-day. If this can be achieved then this disease will cease to be the threat to young children's lives which it has been hitherto. The family doctor can help very much indeed by encouraging parents to have their children done as parents will look to their medical attendant for advice on this matter. Also at Welfare Centres and School Clinics much valuable help is being given and Health Visitors and District Nurses also play their part in getting the parents to consent to have their children protected.

The following table shows the state of immunization in each of the five districts as at 31.12.42.

DISTRICT	TOTAL popl. 0-5 yrs.	No. immun.	% immun.	TOTAL popl. 5-15 yrs.	No. immun.	% immun.	% of all Children immun.
Atcham. R.D.	1,642	786	48%	3,733	2,635	71%	64%
Bishop's Castle. M.B.	95	78	82%	244	229	94%	90%
Church Stretton. U.D.	155	111	72%	338	233	69%	70%
Clun. R.D.	725	415	57%	1,796	1,022	59%	59%
Wenlock.M.B.	1,214	563	47%	2,588	1,962	76%	66%
Totals	3,831	1,953	51%	8,699	6,081	70%	64%

WHOOPING COUGH.

Sixty-five cases were notified and forty of these were in the Atcham. R.D. Two deaths were reported—one in Atcham R.D. and one in Wenlock. M.B.

MEASLES.

Of the 81 cases notified fifty-three cases were in Clun R.D. and twenty-six in Atcham. R.D. No deaths took place from this disease.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Two cases were reported in the Atcham R.D. and both recovered.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases on the registers as at 31st. December, 1942, is as follows :—

Area.	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.	Total
Atcham. R.D.	40	25	24	18	107
Church Stretton. U.D.	5	4	3	–	12
Bishop's Castle. M.B.	2	4	1	1	8
Clun. R.D.	24	18	16	12	70
Wenlock. M.B.	13	13	10	18	54
Totals. (S.W. Salop)	84	64	54	49	251

These figures show an increase of six cases on the register (3 female pulmonary and 3 male non-pulmonary cases) as compared with the figures as at 31st. December, 1941.

NEW CASES.

A total of fifty-six new cases were notified (36 pulmonary and 20 non-pulmonary) compared with 49 the previous year. The following table shows the distribution of the new cases in the areas :—

Area.	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.	Total
Atcham. R.D.	9	9	5	8	31
Bishop's Castle. M.B.	nil		nil		nil
Church Stretton. U.D.	–	1	1	1	3
Clun. R.D.	1	4	–	2	7
Wenlock. M.B.	6	6	–	3	15
Totals.	16	20	6	14	56

Deaths and Death Rates.

In the five districts a total of twenty-four deaths took place from all forms of tuberculosis. (Pulmonary—19, and Non-Pulmonary—5.)

The following figures show the rates per million living for each form of the disease and the rates for England & Wales are given for comparison.

	S.W. Salop	E. & Wales
Pulmonary Death Rate per million living	382	542
Non-Pulmonary Death Rate per million living	101	115
Total Death Rate (all forms)	483	657

It will be seen from the above figures that the death rate is lower than that of the country generally (approximately 27% less) but that the proportion of deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis to the total is higher as compared with the rest of the country.

The following figures give the rates for the last few years and it will be seen that the death rates have shown a slight increase since 1939.

Year.	SOUTH WEST SALOP.			ENGLAND & WALES.		
	Death Rates per million living.					
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1939	280	64	344	520	98	618
1940	292	83	375	571	108	679
1941	273	136	409	570	121	691
1942	382	101	483	542	115	657

Mention was made in last year's report (pp. 36 & 37) of the recommendations put forward by the Committee appointed to report on TUBERCULOSIS IN WAR TIME. These recommendations have now (1943) been adopted and it hoped that they will lead to a decrease in the number of new cases and deaths from this disease. Controlled mass radiography will, it is hoped, lead to the discovery of cases at an earlier stage of the disease and the financial assistance which will be available in cases where the bread-winner is under-going treatment at a Sanatorium should prove of great value, as one of the reasons in the past for men leaving the Sanatorium before they had received full benefit from their stay, was that they knew that their continued absence from work meant privations for their families. Other recommendations in the report were for an increase in the number of beds available and of nurses, improved working conditions for young employees, and for an extension of milk pasteurization. This latter recommendation is now receiving attention and areas where the necessary plant is available are to be 'scheduled' so that all milk produced in the areas will be pasteurized.

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND DEATHS—1942.

ATCHAM. R.D.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Ages	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0–1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1–5	–	–	2	2	–	–	1	1
5–15	2	–	3	4	–	–	–	–
15–25	1	3	–	1	1	1	–	–
25–35	–	3	–	1	1	2	–	–
35–45	2	2	–	–	1	–	–	–
45–55	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
55–65	1	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
65 upwards	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	9	9	5	8	5	3	1	1

CLUN. R.D.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Ages.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0–1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1–5	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
5–15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
15–25	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
25–35	–	1	–	–	1	1	–	–
35–45	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
45–55	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
55–65	1	–	–	1	1	–	–	–
65 upwards	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–
Totals	1	4	–	2	3	2	–	–

BISHOP'S CASTLE. M.B.

No new cases or deaths were recorded.

CHURCH STRETTON. U.D.

Three new cases—(Male, aged 10 years, Non-Pulmonary, Female, aged 17 years, Pulmonary and Female, aged 72 years Non-Pulmonary) were notified. One Female Pulmonary death (aged 39) and one Female Non-Pulmonary death (aged 72) took place.

WENLOCK. M.B.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Ages.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0–1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1–5	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	1
5–15	1	–	–	2	–	–	–	–
15–25	1	2	–	–	–	1	–	–
25–35	2	1	–	–	1	1	–	–
35–45	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
45–55	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–
55–65	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
65 upwards	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	6	6	–	3	3	2	1	1

CANCER.

The following figures give the total number of deaths in each of the areas due to Cancer during the last four years. The death rates per million living are also given for the four years and the rates for the whole country.

Area.	1939		1940		1941		1942	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Atcham. R.D.	17	22	15	15	27	25	18	21
Bishop's Castle. M.B.	1	–	–	2	3	3	–	2
Church Stretton. U.D.	2	7	1	–	2	6	2	2
Clun. R.D.	9	4	10	11	9	14	9	11
Wenlock. M.B.	11	13	13	10	12	13	9	17
Totals	40	46	39	38	53	61	38	53
	86		77		114		91	
Death-rate per million living. (S.W. Salop)	1,855		1,609		2,218		1,832	
Death-rate per million living. (Eng. & Wales)	1,620		1,662		1,670		1,834	